



OCTOBER 13, 2005
Volume One Edition Three

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

News for and about Middle School and High School practitioners in Kentucky

Check the KDE webpage for updates from the
State Board Meeting last week.

[Kentucky Board of Education Homepage](#)

Alliance News & Notes

In this edition:

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Upcoming Events

KSBA Regional Meetings Continue

Many Alliance schools have asked for general awareness offerings and KSBA has graciously opened their regional meetings to our Alliance schools. Check the schedule below and if one of these information sessions will fit into your schedule, RSVP with Robin Whitaker at KSBA, rwhitaker@ksba.org. There is no charge to attend the meeting unless you also want to have dinner that evening, but register your attendance in either case with Robin.

Meeting Schedule:

Second Region October 13

Webster County Annex 6:30 pm CT

Northern KY October 18

Receptions Conference Center 7:00 pm ET

Eastern KY N October 20

Simons Middle School 6:30 pm ET

Eastern KY S October 24

Pikeville HS Commons Area 6:30 pm ET

Third Region October 25

Simpson Elementary 6:30 pm CT

Central KY October 27

Lincoln County High School 6:30 pm ET

Upper Cumberland November 1

Williamsburg Ind. School 6:30 pm ET

Fourth Region November 3

Kreso's Restaurant 6:30 pm ET

A big thank you to the Kentucky School Boards Association and especially Tim Holt from KSBA for making our participation in these regional meetings possible!

October 26th visit with Ray McNulty and Dick Jones

Join us at the Lexington Convention Center as Ray McNulty and Dick Jones from the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) visit us in the first of ten national support meetings. Kentucky was selected as the kick-off to this ten series event. The workshop is free to Successful Practices

Favorite Links

- [International Center for Leadership in Education](#)
- [School Redesign Network](#)
- [Soundout.org](#)
- [WhatKidsCanDo.org](#)
- [Successful Practices Network](#)
- [CATS Results from KDE](#)
- [Business Forum on Kentucky Education Report](#)
- [Prichard Committee Report](#)
- [Kentucky Department of Education Homepage](#)
- [High Schools That Work](#)

Stories from the World Wide Web

From the "What Kids Can Do" website

A Close Look at Student Work in Small Schools

The two work portfolios that follow are the first installment of what we hope will become a regular WKCD series called Learning in Small Schools. Each portfolio focuses on how students in a specific small school experience a particular learning strategy: in this instance, the senior project the "Met" School in Providence, RI and the school-wide, year-opening activity at the Francis W. Parker Charter School in Devens, MA.



Network Members!

Pre-Registration is required

Each school may send three people to the event. Register by contacting Rachel at the ICLE at Rachel@leadered.com

Tentative Agenda

Tentatively, Ray and Dick will speak on the Rigor/Relevance Framework, Gold Seal Lessons and the Learning Criteria. These sessions will be designed to move us beyond a basic awareness and toward implementation. We understand time out of the classroom is precious time for teachers. If you have any questions about potential participants, please call the Center at 518-339-2776.

Snacks will be provided during breaks, lunch is on your own.

Student Summits Rescheduled

October 31st Somerset
Center for Rural Development

November 1st Prestonsburg
Mountain Arts Center

November 7th Shepherdsville
Paroquet Springs Conference Center

November 9th Erlanger
NKU METS Center

November 21st Murray
Murray State University

Due to making the summits regional in nature, schools will be asked to bring more students to the summit. Be thinking about expanding your student team to at least ten (10) students! Depending on the facility location, we may be able to further expand the level of student participation. If you would like to bring more students, call the branch office to see if we have room at the preferred Summit site.

[Click here for full story](#)

From the Kentucky.com website

Corbin High's success topic of show on PBS

By Raviya H. Ismail

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

An algebra teacher who cares enough to offer tutoring before and after school. A reading specialist who runs an all-girls English class. An all-freshmen wing. And teachers who personally know every student at the high school.

These are just some of the reasons why Corbin High School was selected as one of seven schools in the PBS program *Making Schools Work*. The program features success stories of schools that have dramatically improved achievement among disadvantaged students.

[Click here for full story](#)

Contact Information

We have an entire team "and then some" at KDE devoted to Secondary Education, including middle level programming. Please do not hesitate to contact us regarding secondary issues. Our division is located within the Office of Teaching and Learning, with most of us located on the 19th floor of the Capital Plaza Tower.

Linda Pittenger Division Director
Linda.pittenger@education.ky.gov

(Linda has three branches under her supervision; Secondary Education, Virtual Learning, Dropout Prevention)

Jennifer Carroll Branch Manager
Jennifer.carroll@education.ky.gov

(Responsible for oversight of all programs in the Secondary Branch: Refocusing Secondary, Advanced Placement, Middle Level Programs, Extended School Services, and Secondary GED)

Monica Simpson Secondary GED &

Registration opens for each summit at 7:45 AM and the first general session meeting will begin promptly at 8:30 AM (local time). We will adjourn each day by 3:15 pm.

The registration form will be coming to you in a separate email. We will also include a SAMPLE agenda for the Summits. Each will be tailored specifically to the size of the Summit and the needs of the participants, but we do have a general notion of the sessions we anticipate offering statewide. Once you register, your confirmation will include the actual agenda for the Summit you elect to attend.

Questions? Feel free to call Debbie Powers or Tommy Floyd in the Secondary Branch. Their contact information is listed in this newsletter.

Alliance Regional Meetings

Following advice offered to us at the August Alliance Advisory Council meeting, we plan to offer a series of five regional support workshops for Alliance members. Topics and agendas will be tailored to the needs of the Alliance members within those regional groups. Our hope is that districts will assume a leadership role in both support and mentoring of other districts within their region.

The meetings will follow the same basic format. The first date listed will be an evening meeting focused on providing general awareness of the Refocusing Secondary initiative in Kentucky. This meeting will be appropriate for local business leaders, school board members, parents, community leaders, chamber of commerce representatives and other stakeholders. General information sessions will include a presentation concerning the state of high schools today, why we need to refocus attention on the secondary experience, and a look at the Kentucky Board of Education timeline for Refocusing Secondary work. We encourage you to invite these stakeholders now so that they save the date on the calendar.

The second date listed for each location is a morning session with the intended audience of both district and building level participants. A brief general session with highlights of the presentations from the night before will be followed by a series of breakout sessions. The sessions are being designed so as to address the needs identified by our member schools. More details on the sessions will follow in subsequent e-newsletters

Extended School Services (ESS)

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There are numerous others at KDE working as part of the secondary learning team including

Robin Chandler Staff Assistant to the Associate Commissioner

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Robin.chandler@education.ky.gov

Debbie Daniels Highly Skilled Educator

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Rodney Kelly Director Career and Tech Ed.

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Tom Welch Director, Seeding Innovation

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Alliance Newsletter Information and Submission Details

We are on the lookout for interesting information to share with our Alliance members. Got a great thing going at your school? Need technical assistance? Got an "I wonder" rolling around in your head? Contact us!

so stay tuned for updates!

Regional Meeting Dates and Locations

November 21 st and 22 nd	Murray State University
December 1 st and 2 nd	Morehead State University
December 8 th and 9 th	Elizabethtown KCTCS Campus
December 13 th and 14 th	Shelby County Extension Office
December 19 th and 20 th	Somerset KCTCS Campus

Registration materials will be forthcoming. Please "save the date" to the regional meeting closest to your location. The Secondary Branch is looking forward to seeing everyone at these meetings.

Math Summit- Diagnostic Assessment with a focus on key standards in Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II

Information has already been released to every Kentucky high school concerning participation in the statewide Math Summit being held on November 17th from 8:00-4:00 pm at the Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green. Each school district has been invited to send one district level registrant and one representative from each high school and one middle school. Registration is provided through this link: [Math Summit](#)
Registration Deadline: November 1

Check your mailbox (the old-fashioned one)

Do you remember the 2005 Model Schools Conference? We have just received our shipment of Dr. Daggett's addresses, *Preparing Students for Their Future* and *Successful Schools—From Research to Action Plans*. We will mail each Alliance high school, middle school and superintendent a copy of the DVDs next week. We purchased a site license so that you may copy these materials for use in team meetings, professional development workshops and information sessions.

Debbie.powers@education.ky.gov

Tommy.floyd@education.ky.gov

Web address

Check out the [Refocusing Secondary Education](#) website. The site is currently under construction and revision, so hang in there while we update it!

Office phone

Call us at 502-564-4772

High School Reinvention Symposium Report

Linda France, Starr Lewis, and Linda Pittenger traveled to Washington, DC from KDE to attend the High School Reinvention Symposium. Nearly 260 Kentucky educators from 36 districts and two educational cooperatives joined them for this three-day event. During the symposium, district teams had the opportunity to learn about leading school systems through substantive change from colleagues in national model schools and participated in workshops on special focus topics, such as supporting students with special needs. In addition to the time spent in sessions and workshops, each district had time to plan and collaborate as a team with support from session presenters, ICLE consultants, and national school reform leaders.

In next week's newsletter, we will include reflections from a few of the districts in attendance about the symposium and how schools are using that experience to move forward. As soon as the PowerPoints and

session materials are posted on the web, we'll
link to them as well.

Did you know...?

- **We want a logo for the Kentucky Secondary Schools Alliance!** Gather up some students, toss them the idea and have them send their .jpg images to us! The logo idea should reflect innovation, Kentucky, Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships in any combination. The kids could also come up with something else entirely. They could simply use initials, the state outline, or a slogan they develop. We will select a logo from the student entries received. Send entries to Debbie.powers@education.ky.gov no later than November 1st.
- **The College Board** is currently seeking applications for the following two award programs.

2006 Inspiration Awards

The College Board 2006 Inspiration Awards celebrate America's most improved high schools. Three winning schools will receive \$25,000 each, and five honorable mention schools will receive \$1,000 each. Inspiration Award winning schools improve the academic environment and help students achieve the promise of a higher education. Winning schools initiate unique programs and create partnerships among teachers, parents, community organizations, and local businesses to help more students attend college. The Inspiration Awards are open to all secondary schools (public and nonpublic) in which 40 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Schools should be able to demonstrate significant and consistent growth across the entire student population in:

Participation in rigorous curricula, such as the Advanced Placement Program® (AP), IB, or other honors courses

Participation in PSAT/NMSQT®, SAT®, or ACT program assessments that demonstrate preparation for attending college

The percentage of students accepted to two- or four-year institutions of higher education

For additional information or to download an Inspiration Awards application, go to www.collegeboard.com/inspirationawards, call (212) 713-8052, or email InspirationAwards@collegeboard.org. The deadline for application submissions is **November 18, 2005**. Award winners will be announced in April 2006.

Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing

Six grants of \$2,000 each will be awarded to teachers who inspire students to write. The grants will help teachers continue a current project or start something new. Projects can be carried out in school, through an after-school writing workshop, or during a summer program. Activities might include a student newspaper or website; a creative writing group for aspiring poets or songwriters; a program for integrating writing and mathematics; a workshop in science fiction or sports writing; or an activity using student writers to help senior citizens record their life stories. A project qualifies if it turns young people onto the joy of writing. Public and nonpublic school teachers of grades 6 through 12 from all subject areas are encouraged to apply.

The College Board created the Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing to support teachers and to thank Bob Costas, the Emmy Award-winning broadcaster and author, for his generous public service work on behalf of writing instruction.

Applications must be postmarked on or before **November 18, 2005**. All application material should be submitted together in one mailing.

Download the [guidelines, timeline, and application](#).